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LD 716

I would like to submit this testimony in opposition of LD 716 - The act to restrict the hunting of coyotes. The passing of a bill like this that is not supported by science or research and would be detrimental to our deer herd and other important wildlife in Maine. Extensive scientific research for coyotes has proven, time and time again, that coyotes are a self sustaining population in Maine and the hunting of coyotes here, has very little impact to their overall high population. Two of the highest natural mortality causes among deer in Maine are spring fawn predation and winter mortality. Coyotes contribute greatly to deer winter mortalities through depredation in deep snowpack and wasted expenditure of caloric reserves spent escaping predation, especially in the western and northern reaches of Maine. The effects of coyotes on spring fawn survivability are also significant as well. Maintaining the coyote season just as it is, aids in the balance of predatory pressure in our deer herd and other wildlife in Maine.